

The eugenicist will naturally inquire how far it is safe to identify the abstract factors of the statistical psychologist with the inheritable factors that interest the genetic psychologist. Here Thomson quite rightly warns us to go carefully. "What the factorist calls the verbal factor, for example, is something very different from what the world recognizes as verbal ability." And in his earlier writings he appeared to regard the general factor, not as in any sense identifiable with an inheritable quality of the mind or central nervous system, but rather as a statistical artefact: he was "not personally a believer in the existence of a faculty called general ability." But in the present volume he seems ready to accept the idea of such a factor, provided it is interpreted as "an index of the span of the whole mind," or, as he has very acutely expressed it elsewhere, as "a sort of *volume* of the mind which does not give any indication of its *shape*." Moreover, in a sentence added in the new edition, he admits that the divergence between the two interpretations is not so wide as formerly appeared.

We can therefore discern a progressive convergence of views as time goes on, which is certainly encouraging for those who recall the old disputes and controversies. Let me repeat, however, that Professor Thomson's main task is not to give a picture of the constitution or structure of the human mind, but rather to describe and evaluate the mathematical tools devised for analyzing that structure. And this he has done with admirable clearness and completeness.

In his Presidential Address, delivered to the British Psychological Society last year, and now issued by them in pamphlet form,\* Professor Thomson covers much the same new ground in less technical form. Here his purpose, he explains, is twofold. He first gives an interesting account of Thurstone's new methods, and then proceeds to a short survey of the development of the whole subject from the time of the early controversies with Spearman onwards. He ends with a final tribute to Spearman, whose

death deprived British psychology of one of its foremost figures. The whole makes an admirable introduction for the general student.

CYRIL BURT.

## CRIMINOLOGY

**Radzinowicz, L., and Turner, J. W. C.** (Editors). *Penal Reform in England*. By S. K. Ruck *et alia*; foreword by the Right Hon. the Viscount Caldecote; preface by Professor P. H. Winfield. *English Studies in Criminal Science*, Vol. 1. 2nd Edition. London, 1946. Macmillan. Pp. x + 192. Price 12s. 6d.

THE first edition of this book appeared in 1940, and introduced the series of *English Studies in Criminal Science* inaugurated by the Faculty of Law, Cambridge University. Its purpose was to present an authoritative and concise summary of the administration of criminal justice in England. The present edition represents the collaboration of twelve experts under a definite scheme and has been brought up to date, revised and enlarged.

S. K. Ruck writes on "Developments in Crime and Punishment" and introduces statistical matter which will be of assistance in obtaining a well-balanced approach to the subject. In his summary this writer considers that some courts fail to use instructedly some modern methods, and emphasizes his point by referring to the unsuitability of some offenders who are placed on probation. C. M. Craven deals with the "Trend of Criminal Legislation" concisely and critically. A. Lieck contributes a masterly essay on "The Administration of Criminal Justice," fully documented, and written so lucidly that the inquiring layman will often turn to it for instruction. Sir John Maxwell, a new contributor, discusses "The General Development and Outstanding Features of the English Police System" in an essay which is largely historical and full of interest. He considers that whatever changes are suggested in our existing police system, as a result of post-war recon-

\**Some Recent Work in Factorial Analysis and a Retrospect*, University of London Press Ltd., 1946, pp. 16.

struction, it will be wise to remember that throughout the history of our country one important factor in police administration has survived all changes and enactments—it has remained local in character and in its application.

A. C. L. Morrison deals with the "Jurisdiction of the Juvenile Courts," their organization, jurisdiction and powers. W. A. Elkin considers "The Treatment of the Juvenile Delinquent." He believes that in this connection the application of psychological methods is growing, although slowly. He states that it is unquestionably true that modern psychological theories have had an influence on the work of the courts and of the probation officers that cannot be measured by the numbers actually treated by experts.

"The Probation System" is examined by C. D. Rackham, who points out that probation involves considerable effort and anxiety on the part of all concerned. It is because it is positive and constructive when properly applied that it is such a valuable feature in our penal system. All will agree with the writer that it will become ever more valuable as it is better understood and more sympathetically and energetically used by all those concerned with criminal justice.

Sir Vivian Henderson, another new contributor, writes on "Approved Schools," and Miss Margery Fry on "The Borstal System." Both articles will be particularly valuable to those who approach these subjects with a desire to study them with the aid of authoritative and broadminded presentations. The essay on "The Prison System" by J. A. F. Watson is based upon his book *Meet the Prisoner*. Some authoritative recommendations on "Prison Reform" in the concluding chapter are presented by I. H. Reekie as an appendix.

The writers are concerned with the reformative as opposed to the deterrent approach to crime and deserve the thanks of those who are engaged in social problems related to crime and criminals. The editors also are to be congratulated. This edition, like the first, is assured of success.

W. NORWOOD EAST.

**Mannheim, Hermann.** *Criminal Justice and Social Reconstruction.* London, 1946. Kegan Paul. Pp. x + 290. Price 15s.

THIS is an important book. It is written with the erudition and lucidity we have come to associate with Dr. Mannheim's writings and to some extent may be regarded as an extension of his earlier works—*The Dilemma of Penal Reform* and *Social Aspects of Crime in England between the Wars*.

The first part deals with the crisis in values and the criminal law, and the matter is set out in sections on the protection of human life, the protection of sexual and family life, and economic crime. The second part discusses replanning criminal justice. The author's thesis is directed to the fact that although in recent times much work has been concerned with ascertaining the particular factors which result in criminality and the personality of the offender, as well as with the best methods of dealing with him, the reconstruction of the criminal law has not received adequate attention in a world whose system of basic values has changed.

In the section on the protection of human life the author discusses homicide, and comes to the conclusion that different degrees of murder should be recognized by law. This somewhat doctrinaire view is, of course, rather frequently expressed. But it seems to disregard the fact that in this country different degrees of murder are recognized in practice, and that legal stereotyping would be unlikely adequately to assess the many human circumstances which are taken into account when dealing humanely with the award. The difficult questions concerning attempted suicide, suicide pacts, euthanasia, sterilization, birth control and abortion are examined. Many will agree with Dr. Mannheim that attempted suicide should no longer be considered a criminal offence. He also suggests that euthanasia with suitable safeguards should be made lawful, and abortion too on clearly defined grounds.